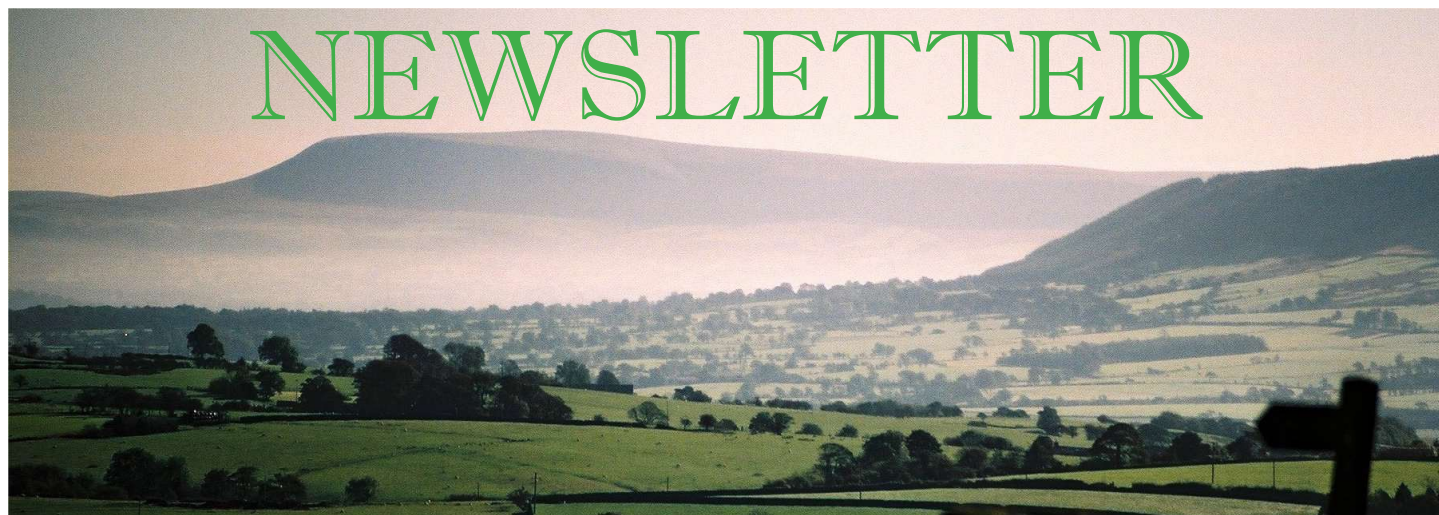


Ribble Wealth Management Limited

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2022

Welcome to our latest Newsletter, brought to you at a time of extreme turbulence in world affairs. It is not possible to be unaware of the tragic events that are occurring right now in Ukraine, and the impact on markets pales into insignificance compared with the misery and death being wrought by Putin and his military might. However, we continue to monitor the situation and, whilst the gains that were made during 2021 have been largely wiped out in the first two months of 2022 due to ongoing uncertainty, we seek to reassure clients that whilst the current valuations make for unhappy reading, the longer-term picture is unchanged and markets offer a relatively attractive opportunity for longer-term investors, in our view.

Inflation continues to be a spectre on the horizon but of greater concern at present is the threat of stagflation – slow economic growth accompanied by rising prices – which is likely to be exacerbated by the increase in energy costs as the demand increases due to our emergence from the lockdowns that we have endured over the past two years. We believe that our portfolios are well positioned with sufficient diversification to weather much of this risk.

You will find accompanying this newsletter a summary of Rishi Sunak's Spring 2022 Forecast Statement, which we hope you find to be informative and interesting reading. At the time of writing, we do not know its content but, as always, if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the information contained therein, or how it might impact on your personal situation, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Standard Life to become abrdn

Early last year, Standard Life announced their new brand **abrdn** (pronounced Aberdeen). The abrdn brand will be used globally across all the businesses in the group including their Wrap platform which is currently branded "Standard Life". Those of you with investments on Wrap will have received a letter confirming that the brand transition has started, and you can expect to receive abrdn branded communications in future. The letter also confirms that the company which looks after your investments is the same and there are no changes to the products and services because of the change of branding.

The new brand is much more than changing the name. For the group, it's about coming together under a single global brand focused on enabling customers to be better investors. However, the good news is that you don't need to do a thing!



We are nearly at the end of the tax year – so if you haven't maximised your ISA (or pension) allowance yet and have the resources to do so, please get in touch urgently! Better still, get in early for the 2022/2023 tax year whilst markets appear to be relatively "cheap".



Did you realise that we are authorised to advise on the advantages and pitfalls of Lifetime Mortgages – often referred to as "Equity Release"? There are many reasons for releasing money from what is usually your largest asset – helping children or grandchildren, a "bucket list" holiday, Inheritance Tax planning, to name but a few. For expert advice, talk to us!



A reminder that it is important to have a valid Will in place to ensure that those whom you would like to benefit on your demise do so. We can help in this regard. Similarly, we are well placed to and can (and often do) assist in obtaining and administering Probate. We would be delighted to discuss your needs with you in this matter with a view to advising you and assisting where appropriate.

Power of Attorney – Have you got yours yet?

Another important document to have in your armoury is the often-overlooked Lasting Power of Attorney. This ensures that, in the event of your inability – through mental or physical illness – to look after your own affairs, somebody is appointed to assist you in the handling of decisions about your property and financial affairs and/or your health and welfare. It is a sad fact of life that ill health befalls us all and, as we get older, the threat of age-related illnesses such as dementia or Alzheimer's increases.

We believe that it is appropriate to ensure that a suitable Lasting Power of Attorney is in place and, where you haven't got one yet, we can assist you. There can be significant financial implications and difficulties if the Court of Protection are required to appoint a deputy to act on your behalf without a suitable Power of Attorney. The cost of setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney is, by comparison, much cheaper and ensures that those you trust most can assist in your time of need.

If this is an area that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Ribble Wealth Management Limited · Ribble House · 11 Trident Park · Trident Way · Blackburn · Lancashire · BB1 3NU
Tel: 01254 84 64 04 · Fax: 01254 84 64 05 · Web: www.ribblewealth.com
Registered in England · Company Registration Number: 9482998

Ribble Wealth Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

The content of this newsletter is purely for information purposes and does not constitute individual advice. Information provided is based on our current understanding of taxation and can be subject to change in future. Taxation depends on individual circumstances as well as tax law and HMRC. Some rules may vary in different parts of the UK. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate Wills, Probate, Powers of Attorney and some forms of estate planning and taxation advice.